

This letter also to: Senator Bill Bradley
& Rep. Peter W. Rodino, Jr.

Old Road to Bloomfield
Newark, New Jersey 07104
January 22, 1984

The Honorable Frank Lautenberg
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lautenberg:-

My growing anxiety over the directions our country is going impels me to state to you some of my views in the hope that it might influence your voice on these matters:

Separation of Church and State

There should be no prayer or "moment of silence" in public schools since this is bound to be offensive to some religious or non-religious elements of the population. And there should be no subsidy of public monies to private or parochial schools, either through direct payment or tuition credits.

Diplomatic ties to the Vatican should be out of the question. It is sufficient if we have an observer there with no official standing.

Interference of Federal Government with Private Individuals

The intervention of the federal government in private family medical decision as the Baby Jane Doe case is the mark of a totalitarian government.

As is also the interference of government in a woman's choice for or against abortion which should be a decision between her and her doctor.

Relation with United Nations

Small wonder that enmity against the USA is growing all over the world with our cavalier attitude toward the UN both as to its headquarters in New York and our money when things don't go our way. We show an increasing tendency to flourish our money rather than use diplomacy to solve problems.

Instead of cooperating with the Contadora group, we use military means to meddle in the internal affairs of Central American countries such as El Salvador, Grenada, Nicaragua. Money for non-military needs such as food might win us more friends in the area.

We should remove our forces from Lebanon and turn the matter over to the UN where the Secretary-General is trying to develop a strategy among several nations. We are in a no-win situation in Lebanon since this is a religious civil war.

Arms Build-up

The hostile rhetoric and arms build-up of this administration was bound to incite the USSR to increase its arms and distribution of same. The danger of nuclear annihilation becomes ever more possible.

The millions for "defense" with little investigation of inept or larcenous expenditures contrast sharply with severe and blanket cuts of people programs.

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Since we are trying to make friends with the Chinese it doesn't make sense to continue sending arms to Taiwan.

The hideous affront to civilian populations of germ warfare should not even be contemplated.

Since a big factor in present-day crime is the proliferation of handguns, every effort should be made to bring them under control.

Miscellaneous

This administration has been forging ahead on the level of making the rich richer and the poor poorer. In order to pare down the mounting national debt, we should increase the graduated income tax.

Lie detector tests have time and time again proved unreliable. More humane and aware supervision would probably do much to cure allegations of employee malfeasance.

Shutting out or bad-mouthing the press is a poor alternative to working with it; establishing reasonable and mutually acceptable boundaries.

Rita Lavelle was just following directions from superiors. It is a shameful thing to see her being the fall guy while the upper echelon gets off scot-free.

Inequities on the local level used to be handled by matching funds and supervision to maintain standards in direct opposition to the current direction of block grants to be spent as the locality desires.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. D. J. Henderson